

-REMARKS / ARGUMENTS-

Claims 1-10, 12-15 and 25-41 are presently pending in this application. Claims 11 and 16-24 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 25-41 are new. Claim 25 is a new method claims which is supported at least by paragraph [0055]. Claim 26 is a new method claim that covers an embodiment that was previously listed as a limitation of claim 1. Claims 27-42 are claims directed to an optical connector assembly that correspond to the previous method claims.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-15 are amended to correct errors unrelated to novelty or obviousness or to broaden them.

No new matter is added by the present amendments.

The Office Action states that claims 1-15 (Group I) and claims 16-24 (Group II) are directed to distinct inventions. The Applicant hereby elects claim Group I and amends the claims accordingly.

The Application should now be in condition for allowance and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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- 10 -

PAGE 10/10 * RCVD AT 1/4/2006 3:32:40 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFAXF-6/28 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:514 286 5474 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-12

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